



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### **ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION PUSHES FOR \$7.5 MILLION UPGRADE FOR HORSENECK AND DEMAREST LLOYD**

**DARTMOUTH** - Romney Administration Environmental Secretary Ellen Herzfelder and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Kathy Abbott visited Demarest Lloyd State Park today to build support for Governor Mitt Romney's plan to spend \$7.5 million on improvements and upgrades to outdated facilities at Horseneck Beach State Reservation in Westport and Demarest Lloyd State Park in Dartmouth.

"The Romney Administration is committed to maintaining and improving the tremendous recreational infrastructure that makes Massachusetts such a great place to live and raise a family," said Herzfelder. "We have a unique opportunity to make needed improvements that will benefit South Coast residents and everyone who comes here to enjoy the pristine natural beauty of this area; we should seize this opportunity."

Earlier this month Romney proposed sending \$100 million to cities and towns in the form of additional local aid and setting aside \$254 million for one-time capital improvements throughout Massachusetts, including road and bridge upgrades and renovations to the parks system, swimming pools and beaches.

Herzfelder said the Governor's spending plan contained \$7 million for a range of needed improvements to Horseneck Reservation. These potential upgrades include:

- Construction of a new first aid building and concession stand.
- Removal of an old bathhouse and construction of a new one.
- Construction of five new comfort stations along the beach.
- Installation of a new water system for day-use areas and campground.
- Modernization of outdated sewer system.
- Reconfiguration of access road, parking lots.
- Construction of new pedestrian "dune crossing" bridges.

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Reconfiguring portions of the access road and parking lots is expected to ease peak traffic flows through the reservation. Pedestrian-friendly “dune bridges” over the main access road would enhance public safety by taking pedestrians off the road, prevent environmental damage to fragile dunes and improve traffic flow by doing away with crosswalks on the road.

Built in the early 1950s, Horseneck Beach State Reservation’s infrastructure relies on outdated materials and systems. Increasing attendance through the years has placed added stress on the facilities. Each year, roughly 350,000 people visit Horseneck Reservation. The beach regularly welcomes up to 30,000 visitors on warm summer days.

Governor Romney’s supplemental spending plan also allocated \$500,000 for improvements to Demarest Lloyd State Park. DCR Commissioner Kathy Abbott said this amount would be sufficient to demolish a condemned bathhouse in the park and construct a new one in its place. She pointed out that DCR already has the required permits and said the new bathhouse could be completed this year if funding is approved by the Legislature.

“Visitors to Horseneck and Demarest Lloyd will see a world of difference if we’re able to move forward with these improvements,” said Abbott. “For the hundreds of thousands of people from around the Commonwealth who come here each year, I’d love to be able to put our plans in motion.”

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